

# Agribusiness Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**2,294 Employers**



**46,085 Workers**



**\$53,545 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Agribusiness?

Agribusiness represents 1.9 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing more than 46,000 workers in over 2,294 businesses in 2022. Employment in Agribusiness has been steadily growing, increasing an average of 1.7 percent per year from 2017 to 2022. Missouri has high employment concentrations in Agribusiness, particularly in Agriculture Chemical Manufacturing, Dairy Product Manufacturing, and Animal Processing and Slaughtering. Wages in Agribusiness averaged \$53,545 in 2022, lower than the \$54,520 state average for all industries.

A variety of careers are possible in fields such as Crop & Animal Production, Research & Development, Logging, and Business Operations & Sales.

### Know the Basics

Agribusiness is defined as the group of industries dealing with agricultural products and services required in farming and food production. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries and occupations, including Agribusiness occupations.

### Skills needed for Success:

Agribusiness is a rapidly evolving industry. Understanding environmental impact on crops and livestock, as well as, keeping up with new research in crop, water, and soil management is important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to detail and continuous learning are necessary.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**Tyson Foods Incorporated**

**MFA Incorporated**

**Smithfield Foods**

**Bunge**

**Land O' Lakes**



## Crop & Animal Production

## Research & Development

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Slaughterers & Meat Packers**  
Entry: \$31,320 Average: \$37,580

**Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators**  
Entry: \$36,430 Average: \$43,490

**Conveyor Operators & Tenders**  
Entry: \$32,570 Average: \$38,140

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator Safety Training

**Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, & Samplers, Recordkeeping**  
Entry: \$35,910 Average: \$42,080

**Certificates:** American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Agricultural Equipment Operators**  
Entry: \$36,560 Average: \$43,490

**Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Mgrs.**  
Entry: \$37,630 Average: \$64,360

**Farm Labor Contractors**  
Entry: N/A; Average: N/A

**Degrees:** Agricultural Business & Management

**Agricultural & Food Science Technicians**  
Entry: \$37,045 Average: \$47,990

**Occupational Health & Safety Technicians**  
Entry: \$48,200 Average: \$60,620

**Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers**  
Entry: \$38,250 Average: \$49,140

**Degrees:** Chemistry, Environmental Health  
**Certificates:** American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Industrial Production Managers**  
Entry: \$79,400 Average: \$110,040

**Agricultural Inspectors**  
Entry: \$37,480 Average: \$45,180

**Degrees:** Engineering, Business Administration and Management

**Food Scientists & Technologists**  
Entry: \$49,110 Average: \$90,080

**Industrial Engineers**  
Entry: \$74,860 Average: \$96,780

**Soil & Plant Scientists**  
Entry: \$52,970 Average: \$82,140

**Degrees:** Agriculture, Food Science, Engineering, Horticultural Science

#### Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2022 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2022 online job ads



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## Logging

## Business Operations & Sales

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand**  
Entry: \$29,820 Average: \$37,080

**Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators**  
Entry: \$36,430 Average: \$43,490

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator Safety Training

**Driver/Sales Workers**  
Entry: \$27,840 Average: \$41,850

**Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks**  
Entry: \$28,810 Average: \$37,450

**Office Clerks, General**  
Entry: \$29,770 Average: \$41,280

**Certificates:** Business Operations Certificates

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers**  
Entry: \$41,350 Average: \$51,900

**Fallers**  
Entry: \$29,470 Average: \$32,160

**Logging Equipment Operators**  
Entry: \$37,210 Average: \$49,430

**Certificates:** Commercial Driver's License,  
Construction/Heavy Equipment/Earthmoving  
Equipment Operation

**Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing**  
Entry: \$45,810 Average: \$73,930

**Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks**  
Entry: \$35,250 Average: \$45,470

**Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers**  
Entry: \$62,080 Average: \$97,330

**Degrees:** Accounting Technology/Technician,  
Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain  
Management  
**Certificates:** QuickBooks

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Foresters**  
Entry: \$44,740 Average: \$56,010

**Accountants & Auditors**  
Entry: \$49,350 Average: \$77,070

**Buyers and Purchasing Agents**  
Entry: \$43,580 Average: \$64,700

**Marketing Managers**  
Entry: \$81,500 Average: \$129,740

**Degrees:** Forestry, Natural  
Resources/Conservation

**Degrees:** Accounting, Finance, Marketing  
**Certificates:** Certified Professional Public Buyer

#### Sources: Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2022 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
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